

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

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TAGS: OVIP EAGR

SUBJECT: VISIT OF SECRETARY BUTZ TO SOUTH AMERICA--TEXT OF PRESS

RELEASE ISSUED WASHINGTON JUNE 5, 1975.

1. SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE EARL L. BUTZ WILL BE IN SOUTH AMERICA JUNE 17-25 FOR A CONFERENCE OF U.S. AGRICULTURAL ATTACHES IN CARACAS, VENEZUELA, AND MEETINGS WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IN 4-"8). HE WILL VISIT BRASILIA, SAO PAULO, AND RIO DE JANEIRO AT THE INVITATION OF MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE ALYSSON PAULINELLI.

2. THE CONFERENCE IN CARACAS WILL INCLUDE AGRICULTURAL ATTACHES ASSIGNED TO AMERICAN EMBASSIES THROUGHOUT LATIN AMERICA. OFFICIALS OF THE FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE WILL BE IN CARACAS FOR THAT CONFERENCE, WHICH WILL INCLUDE REPORTS FROM THE ATTACHES AND BRIEFINGS BY SECRETARY BUTZ AND OTHER WASHINGTON OFFICIALS.

3. THE SECRETARY WILL ALSO MEET WITH VENEZUELAN MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE CARMELO CONTRERAS AND OTHER GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. VENEZUELA IS A GROWING MARKET FOR U.S. FARM PRODUCTS, PARTICULARLY

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GRAIN. IN CALENDAR 1974, IT IMPORTED DOLS 323 MILLION WORTH

OF U.S. AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES AND EXPORTED DOLS 35 MILLION IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS TO THE UNITED STATES.

4. IN BRAZIL, SECRETARY BUTZ WILL CONFER ON A RANGE OF SUBJECTS WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. BRAZIL IS BOTH A MAJOR CUSTOMER AND SUPPLIER OF THE UNITED STATES IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS. IT HAS THE POTENTIAL FOR LARGE INCREASES IN FARM PRODUCTION. IN THE CURRENT MARKETING YEAR ENDING AUG. 31, BRAZIL WILL SUPPLY 30 PERCENT OF WORLD SOYBEAN EXPORTS.

5. BRAZIL'S AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS TO THE UNITED STATES EXCEED DOLS 1 BILLION A YEAR, ESPECIALLY COFFEE, SUGAR, AND COCOA. ITS IMPORTS OF U.S. FARM PRODUCTS AMOUNTED TO DOLS 240 MILLION IN CALENDAR 1974.

6. COMMENTING ON THE PLANNED TRAVEL, SECRETARY BUTZ SAID: "THIS WILL BE MY FIRST VISIT TO VENEZUELA, AND I LOOK FORWARD TO MEETING WITH MINISTER CONTRERAS. IN 1958 AND 1963, I WAS IN BRAZIL IN CONNECTION WITH A COOPERATIVE PROGRAM INVOLVING PURDUE UNIVERSITY. I AM PLEASED TO BE RETURNING THERE AND TO BE RENEWING ACQUAINTANCE WITH MINISTER PAULINELLI, WHOM I TALKED WITH IN ROME DURING THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE."

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